

Filed for intro on 04/13/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 622

By Arriola

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the state's inspection of food service establishments by the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture, and the fees associated therewith.

WHEREAS, members of the public of the state of Tennessee and its many visitors have the right to expect that the food served to them in Tennessee's restaurants, hotels, and other food service establishments is prepared and served in a wholesome and healthy fashion; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has enjoyed a long tradition of providing high-quality hospitality to its guests; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this state, its guests, and its hospitality industry believe that a strong, professional program of health inspections for food service establishments is important; and

WHEREAS, both their customers and the food service establishments themselves have participated in the funding of such inspection programs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, there has developed through statute a divergence in the inspection of food service establishments, with some of these establishments being inspected by the Department of Health and others being inspected by the Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, as a part of that divergence, the fees associated with such inspections have been varied, so that similar establishments are charged vastly differing amounts for such inspections; and

WHEREAS, it is now appropriate to study these issues and make recommendations on how best to revise and fairly impose such food service inspection fees, while maintaining a high level of food service inspection and thereby guaranteeing Tennessee's hospitality industry members and their customers the safe and healthy service of food; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study and review the state's programs of inspection, and associated fees, for establishments that serve food for consumption by the public, and to determine whether the fees imposed for such inspections are adequate, appropriate, and fairly imposed on the different types of food service establishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in its deliberations, the special joint committee shall seek to determine whether the state's food service inspection programs are taking all necessary measures and precautions to assure the health and safety of Tennessee's citizens and guests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall consist of the following members for the purpose of the study and review set forth herein: one (1) member of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; the House Minority Leader; the Vice-Chairman of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee; one (1) member of the House Agriculture Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one (1) member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Labor,

and Agriculture Committee; the Chairman of the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee; the Secretary of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee; the Chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee; the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee; one (1) member to be appointed by the Tennessee Restaurant Association; one (1) member to be appointed by the Tennessee Hotel/Motel Association; one (1) member to be appointed by the Tennessee Oil Marketers Association; and one (1) member to be appointed by the Tennessee Grocers Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon the request of the Chair, including, but not limited to, the provision of reports and information on state policies and procedures relative to food service inspection, the implementation of such policies and procedures, and the state's budget and methods for funding food service inspection programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee, who are duly elected members of the General Assembly, shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and, at its first meeting, shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred First General Assembly no later than November 15, 2000, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.